



Date: Thursday, March 15, 2012  
Time: 9:45 am  
Place: Conference Room 325  
Committees: House / EEP/WLO, FIN

Re: SB 3003 SD1 -- Relating to Geothermal Resources

Aloha Representatives,

The Innovations Development Group (IDG) is a Hawaii based renewable energy Development Corporation owned by Native Hawaiians. It was created to facilitate the development of renewable energy resources of native people, and in summer 2011 presented its development model to legislators of the Energy & Land Committees.

The IDG strongly supports this measure.

This measure differentiates between "geothermal resources exploration" and "geothermal resources development" for purposes of mining leases and exploration permits. It designates "geothermal resources exploration" and "geothermal resources development" as permitted uses in all state land use districts and conservation district zones and repeals geothermal resource subzone provisions under state land use law. In addition, it exempts geothermal resources exploration from environmental assessment and environmental impact statement requirement while ensuring that geothermal resource development conforms to all requirements of Chapter 343.

This bill is badly needed in order to facilitate the immediate exploration of the States geothermal public trust assets in light of the energy & fiscal crisis Hawaii is facing. Exploration for energy is not the same thing as development of energy for production. Thirty years ago, Hawaii's statutes anticipated that the Sate of Hawaii would expend millions of dollars testing the viability of our geothermal resources so that the State could then determine which lands were suitable for geothermal development, and thereafter designate these areas as 'geothermal sub-zones' for private sector development. Today, we know that geothermal resources are not explored or developed in this manner, (ie. with the State picking up the cost for exploration and sub-zone designation in order to facilitate development of the resources by private parties.) Today, industry practice requires that the private sector undertake exploration in order to determine whether development is feasible, and if the data indicates it is, our Hawaii statutes favor public/private partnerships working together to develop firm power for an energy secure future for our State. Exploration is a business expense for the private sector, but it may not lead to development.

LATE TESTIMONY



## Indigenous Consultants, LLC

Mililani B. Trask, Principal

P.O.Box 6377 ❖ Hilo, HI 96720

[Mililani.trask@gmail.com](mailto:Mililani.trask@gmail.com)



Date: Thursday, March 15, 2012  
Time: 9:45 am  
Place: Conference Room 325  
Committees: House – EEP / WLO, FIN

Re: SB 3003 SD1 – Relating to Geothermal Resources

Aloha Representatives,

Indigenous Consultants (IC) is a Hawaii based, indigenous LLC owned and operated by Native Hawaiians. It was created to assist indigenous peoples in developing their renewable energy resources in ways that are: Culturally appropriate, environmentally green and sustainable, socially responsible and economically equitable and affordable. For several years the IC has worked with Innovations Development Group in New Zealand and indigenous Maori developing geothermal resources, which are trust assets of Maori Land Trusts. In addition, the IC has acted as a consultant to other indigenous people in Hawaii and Asia who are addressing development of their trust renewable energy resources in ways that; directly benefit their people, bring in revenues, create small business opportunities and ensure fair & affordable rates to consumers, including themselves and their communities.

### Testimony in Strong Support

This measure differentiates between "geothermal resources exploration" and "geothermal resources development" for purposes of mining leases and exploration permits. It designates "geothermal resources exploration" and "geothermal resources development" as permitted uses in all state land use districts and conservation district zones and repeals geothermal resource subzone provisions under state land use law. In addition, it exempts geothermal resources exploration from environmental assessment and environmental impact statement requirement while ensuring that geothermal resource development conforms to all requirements of Chapter 343.

This bill is badly needed in order to facilitate the immediate exploration of the States geothermal public trust assets in light of the energy & fiscal crisis Hawaii is facing. Exploration for energy is not the same thing as development of energy for production.